

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01 SCA-01 DPW-01 ORM-01 SR-02

AID-05 ACDA-05 (ISO) W
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R 051119Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 351

INFO/RUMJIR/AMEMBASSY SAIGON 183

USMISSION GENEVA

USUN NEW YORK 186

JEC PARIS 1682

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 0986

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ICRC, PARM, PDIP, PFOR, VS, UN, VN

SUBJ: "PRG" LIAISON OFFICE IN GENEVA: NON-HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES

REF: A) STATE 047382; B) STATE 038047; C) GENEVA 818

D) GENEVA 1221

1. FOLLOWING COORDINATION WITH RVN EMBASSY, EMBOFF CALLED ON AMBASSADOR KELLER (CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS BUREAU) TO MAKE DEMARCHE AS INSTRUCTED REF A. EMBOFF STRESSED THAT IN USG VIEW PHAM VAN BA'S FEB 7 STATEMENTS EXCEEDED PRG LIAISON OFFICE'S PROPER FUNCTION SINCE THEY WERE NOT RELATED TO UN HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES.

2. KELLER HAD SOME RATHER LAME EXCUSES FOR PHAM'S STATEMENTS, THOUGHT THAT THE FEB 7 PRESS CONFERENCE WAS POSSIBLY AN UNDERSTANDABLE BORDERLINE CASE WHICH DID NOT MERIT TAKING ACTION AT THIS TIME. HE CONCEDED, OF COURSE, THAT LOW WAS NOT UN CONFERENCE, BUT SAID THAT IN SWISS VIEW IT WAS CLEARLY A HUMANITARIAN ONE. REFERRING
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TO REPORT FROM GENEVA UN PROTOCOL CHIEF D'OULTREMENT TO

SWISS UN MISSION IN GENEVA ON WHAT TRANSPIRED ON FEB 7, KELLER SAID THAT ACCORDING TO THIS INFORMATION, CORRESPONDENTS HAD SOUGHT OUT PHAM, NOT OTHER WAY AROUND. EMBOFF SET RECORD STRAIGHT ON THAT.

3. KELLER PLACED MOST IMPORTANCE ON WHAT HE CLAIMED AS FACT THAT THIS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN PRG OFFICE'S ONLY TRANSGRESSION, MADE AT TIME OF GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT OVER FAILURE TO GET INTO LOW CONFERENCE. EMBOFF STRESSED NEED TO ARREST PRG'S EVIDENT DESIRE TO BROADEN SCOPE OF THEIR ACTIVITIES BEFORE THEY GET ANY FURTHER, BUT KELLER ONLY WENT SO FAR AS TO PROMISE TO TALK TO THE PRG OFFICE REPS IF THERE SHOULD BE FURTHER, CLEARCUT VIOLATION OF THE AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH THEY PERMITTED TO OPERATE.

4. COMMENT: AS ANTICIPATED, THE SWISS ARE MOST RELUCTANT TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST PRG OFFICE, WILL WANT THE UN TO TAKE THE LEAD IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, AND WILL AWAIT CLEARCUT, FLAGRANT VIOLATION BEFORE TAKING ANY CONCRETE STEPS THEMSELVES.
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